

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN FLASH

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221246

NODIS

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, NO, US

SUBJECT: LETTER TO CONGRESS ON HAWKS

REF: STATE 219913

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO

GENEVA FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS

1. PLEASE CONVEY TO RIFAI AND KING HUSSEIN ON SECRETARY'S BEHALF THAT WE GREATLY APPRECIATE KING'S FORTHCOMING RE-ACTION TO FINAL PROPOSAL OUTLINED REFTEL (FYI: AS WELL AS YOUR OWN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN OBTAINING HIS POSITIVE RESPONSE. END FYI) WE RECOGNIZE THIS DECISION WAS NOT AN EASY ONE FOR HIM, AND WE WANT HIM TO KNOW THAT IT WAS NOT EASY FOR US. WE FEEL SURE, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS WILL
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CONFIRM WISDOM AND FAR-SIGHTEDNESS OF KING'S JUDGMENT.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UNCLASSIFIED PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS BEING SENT TODAY TO HOUSE SPEAKER AND PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. SPEAKER (MR. PRESIDENT):

WITH RESPECT TO THE SALE OF HAWK ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES TO JORDAN, I AM WRITING TO INFORM YOU OF THE FOLLOWING: INITIAL DELIVERIES WILL CONSIST OF ONE BATTERY EACH IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER OF 1976. DELIVERIES OF THE NEXT THREE BATTERIES WILL BE MADE DURING THE PERIOD OF JANUARY-MARCH 1978. DELIVERIES OF THE REMAINING EIGHT BATTERIES WILL BEGIN APPROXIMATELY 30 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE JORDANIAN SIGNATURE OF THE LETTER OF OFFER AND WILL BE MADE OVER A PERIOD EXTENDING INTO 1979.

THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN HAS INFORMED US THAT IT INTENDS TO USE THE HAWK MISSILES SOLELY FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE AMMAN-ZERKA COMPLEX AND OTHER FIXED SITES, THAT IS, AIR BASES AND RADAR STATIONS LOCATED GENERALLY TO THE EAST AND SOUTH OF AMMAN. THE BATTERIES WILL BE PERMANENTLY INSTALLED AT THESE LOCATIONS AS FIXED, DEFENSIVE AND NON-MOBILE ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS. THE GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION OF THESE SITES AND THE PLANNED CONFIGURATION OF THE HAWK INSTALLATIONS WILL CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THE INTENT OF THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT TO USE THE WEAPONS FOR PURELY FIXED DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. THE TRAINING TO BE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL BE TRAINING APPROPRIATE TO NON-MOBILE WEAPONS.

AS YOU KNOW, PERTINENT LEGISLATION AND AGREEMENTS OBLIGATE THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN TO USE ARMS SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ONLY FOR PURPOSES OF THE LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE OR INTERNAL SECURITY OF JORDAN AND TO REFRAIN FROM TRANSFERRING OR SUBJECTING THE ARMS TO THE CONTROL OF A THIRD PARTY WITHOUT PRIOR, WRITTEN U.S. CONSENT. WE CONSIDER THAT THE LATTER PROVISION WOULD PROHIBIT THE PLACEMENT OF THE HAWK WEAPONS UNDER ANY BI-NATIONAL OR MULTINATIONAL COMMAND STRUCTURE OR MILITARY FORCE OF WHICH

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JORDAN MIGHT BECOME A PART, IF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF TRANSFERRING TITLE OR CONTROL OUTSIDE THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT WITHOUT PRIOR, WRITTEN UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSENT.

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WILL SEEK TO IMPLEMENT THE SALES CONTRACT CONSISTENT WITH THE PRINCIPLES EXPRESSED IN THIS LETTER. WE WILL MONITOR THE SITUATION.

TION CLOSELY TO THIS END. I WISH TO RECALL TO YOU THAT THE LETTER OF OFFER WILL CONTAIN A PROVISION THAT "UNDER UNUSUAL AND COMPELLING CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES REQUIRE IT, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL ALL OR PART OF THIS ORDER AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE DELIVERY OF DEFENSE ARTICLES OR PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES."

MOREOVER, IF AT ANY TIME THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE HAWK BATTERIES BY THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO DEPART

FROM THIS PATTERN OF DEFENSIVE DEPLOYMENT OR NATIONAL CONTROL, THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL SO INFORM THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS AND WILL CONSULT WITH THEM CONCERNING ANY ACTION WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN IN CONSEQUENCE. SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD. END TEXT.

3. IN DISCUSSING ABOVE LETTERS WITH KING AND PRIMIN RIFAI, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING COMMENTS AS YOU SEE FIT:

(A) WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS WILL SATISFY SENATOR CASE'S CONCERNS AND PAVE WAY FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF HAWK SALE IN SENATE. CONGRESSMAN BINGHAM AND OTHER HOUSE OPPONENTS OF THE SALE MAY WELL MAINTAIN THEIR OPPOSITION, BUT THEY HAVE ACCEPTED DEFEAT ON THIS MATTER AND MAY NOT EVEN PRESS A VOTE IN OPPOSITION.

(B) BASIC ASSURANCES IN ABOVE LETTERS ARE THOSE MENTIONED TO KING IN MESSAGE CONVEYED STATE 214850 AND IN REFTTEL, AND AGREED TO BY HIM. DELIVERY SCHEDULE IS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS THAT ALREADY UNDERSTOOD BY JORDANIANS, DESPITE SOME SENTIMENT IN CONGRESS TO STRETCH CONFIDENTIAL

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IT OUT FURTHER. WE RECOGNIZE GOJ WOULD HAVE PREFERRED FASTER DELIVERY, BUT THIS HARDLY REALISTIC IN CIRCUMSTANCES EVEN IF IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE LOGISTICALLY.

(C) PARAGRAPH REGARDING POSSIBLE JOINT COMMAND IS SIMPLY RESTATEMENT, IN THAT PARTICULAR CONTEXT, OF LEGAL PROVISIONS JORDANIANS WELL AWARE OF. AS YOU KNOW, CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFER ESPECIALLY IN THIS CONTEXT.

(D) REFERENCE TO STANDARD LETTER OF OFFER PROVISION REGARDING CANCELLATION WAS INCLUDED IN RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL DESIRE, IN COURSE OF CONSULTATIONS, FOR INDICATION THAT ASSURANCES HAVE REAL AND PRACTICAL MEANING IN TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION. IT IS NOT RPT NOT

TO BE READ AS IMPLYING ANY SUSPICION THAT JORDAN IS
LIKELY TO TRY TO DEPART FROM ASSURANCES KING HAS GIVEN
US.

4. WE BELIEVE LETTERS ARE VERY REASONABLE PRICE TO PAY
FOR GETTING JORDANIANS ALL 14 HAWK BATTERIES. THERE IS
NO BUILT-IN DOUBT ABOUT FUTURE DELIVERIES, NO MODIFICA-
TION IN LETTER OF OFFER, AND NO DIRECT ENGAGEMENT OF
JORDANIANS THEMSELVES IN ARRANGEMENTS WITH CONGRESS. SISCO

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